REMARKS

Initially, in accordance with Applicants' duty to provide a statement of the substance of

an interview, Applicants contacted the Examiner on November 29, 2005 to inquire into the

grounds of rejection set forth in the final Office Action. The rejection set forth in the final Office

Action appeared to be a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 instead of 35 U.S.C. § 103, as indicated

in the final Office Action. Applicants requested clarification as to whether the grounds for

rejection should be under 35 U.S.C. § 102 instead of 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Examiner clarified

that the rejection should be a 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 rejection.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §

102(e)/103(a) as unpatentable over Ball et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,736).

By this Amendment, Applicants propose canceling claims 5 and 20 without prejudice or

disclaimer, amending claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-17, and 19 to improve form, and adding new claim

21. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35

U.S.C. § 102/103. Claims 1-4, 6-19, and 21 are pending.

At pages 2-8 of the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-4 and 6-

19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 as allegedly unpatentable over Ball et al. Applicants respectfully

traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of preserving state information for

applications over a telephone interface using a voice application computer. The method

comprises identifying a user profile over the telephone interface using the voice application

computer and telephone identifying information; identifying state information associated with

the user profile, the state information comprising a plurality of cookies retrieved from other

computers over a web interface and resulting from at least one telephone session, the voice

application computer storing the user profile and the state information associated with the user

profile; storing policies to control accessing of the plurality of cookies and storing of new

cookies; automatically and selectively providing, by the voice application computer, a subset of

the plurality of cookies to an application based on the stored policies; and storing a new cookie

with the plurality of cookies based on the policies.

Ball et al. does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in amended

claim 1. For example, Ball et al. does not disclose or suggest storing policies to control

accessing of the plurality of cookies and storing of new cookies. Ball et al. discloses storing a

cookie in association with an end user (col. 9, lines 33-42), but does not disclose or suggest

policies to control accessing of cookies and storing of new cookies, as required by claim 1.

Because Ball et al. does not disclose or suggest storing policies to control accessing of the

plurality of cookies and storing of new cookies, Ball et al. cannot disclose or suggest

automatically and selectively providing, by the voice application computer, a subset of the

plurality of cookies to an application based on the stored policies, or storing a new cookie with

the plurality of cookies based on the policies, as further recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Ball et al.

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable over Ball et al. for at

least the reasons given with regard to claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 6-10 are also patentable over Ball

et al. for reasons of their own.

For example, claim 2 recites that the policies are dependent on at least one of needs of the

voice application computer, first decisions made by at least one operator of the voice application

computer, or second decisions made by users of the voice application computer. Because Ball et

al. does not disclose or suggest policies to control accessing of the plurality of cookies and

storing of new cookies, <u>Ball et al.</u> cannot disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 2.

For at least these additional reasons, Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u>

Claim 7 recites that at least some of the policies are based on IETF RFC 2109. Because <u>Ball et al.</u> does not disclose or suggest policies to control accessing of the plurality of cookies and storing of new cookies, <u>Ball et al.</u> cannot disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 7.

For at least these additional reasons, Applicants submit that claim 7 is patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u>

Claim 8 recites that the storing a new cookie occurs responsive to verification of the new cookie by the voice application computer based on the policies. Because <u>Ball et al.</u> does not disclose or suggest policies to control accessing of the plurality of cookies and storing of new cookies, <u>Ball et al.</u> cannot disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 8.

For at least these additional reasons, Applicants submit that claim 8 is patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u>

Amended independent claims 11, 14, and 15 recite features similar to, but possibly different in scope from, features recited in claim 1. Claims 11, 14, and 15 are, therefore, patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u> for at least reasons similar to reasons given with regard to claim 1. Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 11 and claims 16-19 depend from claim 15. Claims 12, 13, and 16-19 are, therefore, patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u> for at least the reasons given with regard to claims 11 and 15.

New claim 21 depends from claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u> for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1. Claim 21 is also patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u> for reasons of its own. Claim 21 recites permitting a user to manage the state information associated with the user. <u>Ball et al.</u> does not disclose or suggest this combination of features. For at least these additional reasons, Applicants submit that claim 21 is patentable over <u>Ball et al.</u>

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.
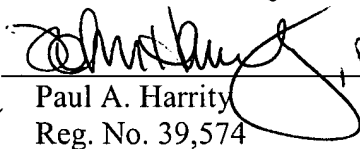
If the Examiner does not believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of this application.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1-4, 6-19, and 21 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the entry of this Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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